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Date: 5/2/2012

GAIN Report Number: IN2063

India

Post: New Delhi

2012 Monsoon Forecast

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

On April 26, 2012, for third consecutive year, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a “normal monsoon” forecast. Approximately 55 percent of India’s agricultural land is rain-fed, and therefore monsoon rains are vital for sustaining agricultural production, particularly for *kharif* (fall and early harvested) planted crops such as rice, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, corn and pulses.

General Information:

Forecast

On April 26, 2012, the IMD released ([IMD Press Release](#)) its long-range forecast of 2012 the monsoon season (June-September), predicting a normal monsoon (i.e. 96-104 percent of Long Period Average (LPA) for third consecutive year. Monsoon season rainfall is likely to be 99 percent of the LPA with a model error of +/- 5 percent. According to the IMD model, there is 24 percent probabilities that rains could be below normal (i.e. 90-96 percent of LPA) while the probability of excess rainfall (above 110 percent of LPA) this season is 4 percent. The IMD is expected to update its monsoon forecast in June 2012, and will be issuing monthly rainfall reports in July and August, as well as a seasonal rainfall report (June-September) for the four main geographical regions of India (East and North-East, North-West, Central, South Peninsular).

As nearly 55 percent of India's agricultural land is rain-fed, monsoon rains are vital for sustaining agricultural production, particularly for *kharif* (fall and early harvested) planted crops such as rice, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, corn and pulses. Even for irrigated agricultural lands, good monsoon rains can boost yields and reduce the cost of production. A normal Southwest monsoon brings 70 percent of total rainfall and irrigates 60 percent of agricultural land.